

For more information or to request training or technical assistance contact us at:

[information@thearctn.org](mailto:information@thearctn.org)

615/248-5878

800/835-7077

or visit

<http://www.thearctn.org/Home.php>

Click on **Education**

The Arc Tennessee empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to actively participate in the community throughout their lifetime.

Donations to The Arc of Tennessee are tax-deductible.

The Secondary Transition Project. is funded under a contract with the Tennessee Department of Education.

*The Arc of Tennessee values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender or level of disability.*



The Arc of Tennessee  
545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37228

## Student Directed Individualized Education Plans



Helping Students learn Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy by leading **their** own IEP meetings



**Secondary Transition is the process of preparing students (14-22) for Adult Life. The Secondary Transition Plan is the student's plan for life after school**

**The Arc Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project** assists students, families and educators begin seeing the student as an adult who can make decisions for themselves – sometimes with support like everyone else, speak for themselves, see future possibilities and learn about resources.

**The Critical Elements of Secondary Transition are:**

- Transition Planning
- Student Involvement
- Family Participation
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Inclusion, Access and Accountability
- Interagency and Community Services
- Transition Assessment



**A successful transition plan serves as a student's guide to adult life** (independence, learning, working, community participation). It is not a plan for the student. It is the **student's plan**.

**During the transition planning process,** each piece must be reviewed and updated at least annually during the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team Meeting. The pieces of the transition plan include:

- The student's preferences, interests and needs
- The Student's vision for the future
- The Student's present level of educational performance
- The IEP with statement of needed transition services
- Implementation of the IEP to this point
- Evaluation of the IEP components

Traditionally, students have not played a leadership role in their IEP Team Meetings, even though the process is designed to be student-centered.

**With Student Directed IEPs** students move toward adult life through person-centered leadership with support as requested/needed.



The Arc Tennessee's **Student Directed IEP** Plan supports is a concept that facilitates the process of students becoming more involved in their transition planning process as they choose – usually based on their comfort level, often increasing to leading the full meeting. Student directed IEPs help students:

- Learn to make their own decisions (Self-Determination)
- Speak up for themselves in a productive way (Self-Advocacy)
- Own their goals (I will learn to . . .)
- Embrace their plan's outcomes

**The Arc of Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project** provides training and technical assistance on Student Directed IEPs as one of many tools to support students, families and educators to prepare for the challenges of Secondary Transition and seeing students as the leaders of their lives.

**Student Directed IEPs training** is available in person or via the internet. For more information about the training or to schedule training in your area, contact The Arc Tennessee.

Student Directed Resources related to and secondary transition information are available on The Arc Tennessee website at <http://www.thearctn.org/Education.php>.